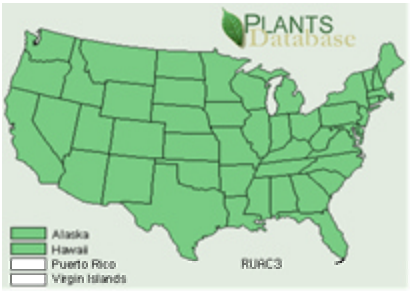
Sheep Sorrel
Rumex acetosella

DESCRIPTION *Rumex acetosella* is a dioecious, herbaceous perennial with creeping rhizomes. The roots can reach depths of 1.5m (5ft.). This plant measures 10-40cm (4-16in.) in height. The stems of this plant are slender and reddish in color. The alternately arranged leaves have three lobes. The terminal lobe is narrowly lanceolate while the lateral lobes are much smaller and triangular in shape. The terminal lobe measures 2-12mm (0.08-0.5in.) in length. All the leaves have an ocrea at their base which is a thin, membranous sheath that surrounds the stem where the petiole meets it.

The flowering stalks of these plants can be half as long as the plant. The flowers are nodding on short, jointed pedicels. The male flowers are yellowish in color and the obovate inner tepals measure 1.5-2mm (0.06-0.08in.) in size. The female flowers are reddish in color and the tepals are broadly ovate in shape. The flowers appear on this plant from late May to June. The shiny, golden brown achenes of this plant are 3-angled and measure around 1.5mm (0.06in.) in length. The fruit are present on the plant from June-October.

DISTRIBUTION Sheep Sorrel is native to most of Europe, Russia, the Middle East and North Africa. In the United States, it has been reported from all the states.



HABITAT This plant prefers areas with very poor, acid soil with low nitrogen. It can be found in abandoned field, agricultural fields, open disturbed areas. railroad right-of-way. roadsides, and utility right-of-way.

CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT Mechanical removal and spot removal using herbicides is successful.

References http://webapps.lib.uconn.edu/ipane/
http://plants.usda.gov/